

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An arrangement for closing a through flow opening in a throttle valve connection piece of an internal combustion engine, comprising:
 - a throttle valve shaft positioned over and transverse to said through flow opening, said shaft pivotably mounted to said throttle valve connection piece; and
 - a throttle valve comprising a receiving opening and one or more recesses, said receiving opening running a length of and planar to said valve and comprising an interior opening wherein said shaft is mounted such that said valve selectively closes said flow opening, and said one or more recesses extend into said interior opening exposing said shaft wherein said valve is connected to said shaft by at least one welding and wherein said throttle valve comprises a connecting element welded to said throttle valve and projecting into said one or more recesses, said connecting element comprising a material weldable to said throttle valve shaft.
2. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said valve comprises walls forming a hub, said hub comprising said receiving opening.
3. (cancelled).
4. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein said connecting element is welded to said throttle valve shaft at its projection within said one or more recesses~~said recess~~.
5. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 4, wherein said connecting element projects tangentially with respect to the throttle valve shaft into said one or more recesses~~said recess~~.

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6. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 31, wherein said connecting element comprises two connecting elements arranged firmly connected to said throttle valve and projecting, in opposite directions to one another, tangential to said throttle valve shaft, and into each of said one or more recesses~~said recess~~.

7. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 6, wherein said shaft further comprises opposing ends projecting into a housing of said throttle valve connection piece.

8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 31, wherein said connecting element extends, along said valve shaft, and a substantial length of said one or more recesses~~said recess~~.

10. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 31, further comprising a plurality of connecting elements adjacently arranged within each of said one or more recesses~~said recess~~ and along said throttle valve shaft.

11. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 31, wherein:

- said valve comprises an injection molded material, and
- said connecting element is firmly connected to said throttle valve as an insertion part by injection molding using the material of the throttle valve during its manufacture.

12. (original) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said connecting element is an insertion plate.

13. (original) The arrangement according to claim 9, wherein said throttle valve comprises a lightweight metal.

14. (original) The arrangement according to claim 9, wherein said throttle valve comprises a plastic used in injection molding.

15. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said throttle valve shaft comprises steel.
16. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 3~~1~~, wherein an end of said connecting element abuts said throttle valve shaft with prestress.
17. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welding is a fused welded connection generated by resistance welding or laser welding.
18. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welding comprises a welding seam.
19. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welding comprises one or more welding points.
20. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welding comprises at least one spot welding.
21. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welding comprises a continuous welding.